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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to resolutions 771 and 780 (1992).

The Commission of Experts established pursuant to resolution 780 has been attempting, in the context of its mandate, to examine and analyse information relating to grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other violations of humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, to uncover and establish evidence at mass grave sites in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia.

It is of particular importance to the work of the Commission to excavate, inter alia, a site at Ovcara in the vicinity of Vukovar in Sector East of the UNPAs. The Government of the Netherlands has offered to provide an armed military engineer unit of up to 50 personnel which would be required to assist in the excavation. This offer is being made free of cost to the United Nations.

I believe that this task could best be carried out by including the unit, on a temporary basis, in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). This would involve the temporary expansion of the Force by a further 50 military personnel, at no additional cost.

It is intended that the additional elements of the Force would be deployed in the area for a period of 10 weeks starting 1 September, subject to the extension of the mandate of UNPROFOR which currently expires on 30 September. I would proceed on this basis, subject to the concurrence of the members of the Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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